



## P25 Radio System Upgrade FAQs

### Q: Will the upgrade allow more radios/agencies to join the system?

A: Yes. Approximately 62,000 of the 64,000 possible user IDs are currently in use on the system, which has limited the ability for new cities, counties and agencies to join IPSC. The new system will support 128,000 IDs and can be further expanded as needed.

### Q: What's the timeline for the upgrade?

A: Core Site equipment will be shipped and installed this summer. After this equipment is installed, tested and optimized, individual radio sites will be upgraded. Upgrades will occur by Indiana State Police (ISP) Dispatch Regions, in the following order (map available [here](#)):

1. Versailles
2. Bloomington
3. Indianapolis
4. Lowell
5. Fort Wayne
6. Bremen/Toll Road

It will take several weeks to upgrade all the radio sites in each of the Dispatch Regions. Therefore, it will take approximately 24 months after the Core Sites are up and running to complete the upgrade project.

### Q: Will my radio work on the new system?

A: In 2010, the Integrated Public Safety Commission required that all new radios operating on the statewide system be P25 ready.

This chart below provides some examples, but agencies should check with their vendor to determine if their radios are capable of being upgraded to work on the P25 system.

P25 Capable	P25 Capable, but End-of-Life	Not P25 Capable (Analog)
EF Johnson Viking series, as well as any radio that was replaced during rebanding  Motorola APX series, XTS/XTL	EF Johnson Series 4 5100 & 5300 Portable/Mobile  Motorola Astro Spectra	Motorola MTS 2000, MCS 2000, Spectra, MTX series, and LTX series

IPSC will require that all radios that operate on P25 system meet the requirements of the Project 25 (P25) Compliance Assessment Program, details of which can be found at [http://www.pscr.gov/outreach/safecom/p25\\_cap/p25\\_cap\\_docs.php](http://www.pscr.gov/outreach/safecom/p25_cap/p25_cap_docs.php).

**Q: What immediate steps do I need to be taking?**

**A:** Prior to switchover, radios must be upgraded and reprogrammed. Start now to:

- Gather radio inventory, verify model number, serial number, flash codes and firmware. Your vendor may have this information, or you may be able to find it on your radio. In some cases, your radio may have to be “read” to acquire the information.
- Review existing templates to plan for P25 operation.
- Contact your vendor or IPSC if you have any questions.

**Q: How much is this going to cost me?**

**A:** As in the past, the state will provide the system infrastructure and will pay to maintain and operate the system **at no cost** to user agencies. This maintenance contract is guaranteed for 21 years. Local agencies will be responsible for the upgrades of their own consoles and radios; Motorola will provide the software to upgrade Motorola P25-capable radios at no charge to users. IPSC has been in discussions with EF Johnson to reduce costs associated with upgrading their P25-capable radios. Agencies will be responsible for installation and reprogramming labor costs and should check with the manufacturer to see what these costs will be.

**Q: Are grants available to help with the upgrade costs or purchase of new equipment?**

**A:** IPSC is working with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and other state agencies to identify any and all grant programs that can be used to upgrade or procure user equipment for the P25 system.

**Q: Will new radio programming templates be required?**

**A:** Yes. IPSC is developing a new base-line template containing a core group of talkgroups and conventional channels to ensure interoperability and provide optimal safety. Agencies may build upon this core template, using their own personnel or their selected vendor to develop the template.

**Q: Are service interruptions anticipated during the upgrade?**

**A:** After site equipment has been replaced, there will be a “hard” cutover, where the old equipment is powered off, the antenna systems are reconfigured and the new equipment is powered on at each site. Consequently, radios will need to be dual-programmed, and there may be a short period when users will have to manually switch between the old and new systems. IPSC will publish a schedule and will work closely with agencies to ensure minimal disruption.

Once a site is converted to the P25 system it will no longer support radios that have not been upgraded to P25 operations.

**Q: What if I need to purchase new equipment?**

**A:** As part of the system upgrade, Motorola has provided special pricing for certain radios and equipment; these discounts will be available until project sign-off, and details will be available on the IPSC website. The State is also working with EF Johnson and other manufacturers to develop QPA pricing.

\* \* \* \* \*